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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 7 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 1 July 2015, regarding the thirty-second round of the Geneva international discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vakhtang **Makharoblishvili**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 7 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the thirty-second round of the Geneva international discussions

Tbilisi, 1 July 2015

The thirty-second round of the Geneva international discussions was held on 1 July 2015. The participants in the discussions took part, in their individual capacity, in the two working groups, the first focusing on security and stability in the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, and the other on issues related to the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their origin. The discussions were co-chaired by the representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and attended by the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as representatives of the Sokhumi and Tskhinvali occupation regimes, took part in the discussions.

The talks were conducted in a constructive manner. The participants exhausted all agenda items in both working groups.

Within the first working group, the participants from Georgia reviewed the security situation in the occupied regions. The influence of the so-called "treaties" on the security situation on the ground was discussed. The participants from Georgia stressed that new, so-called "sectoral agreements" vividly revealed the process of creeping annexation.

It has been underlined that the installation of barbed-wire fences and other artificial barriers flagrantly violated the fundamental human rights of the local population and endangered the security and stability along the occupation line.

The participants from Georgia condemned the illegal military drills in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, as well as the violations of Georgia's airspace by Russia. The Georgian participants once again called upon the Russian Federation to make a legally binding non-use-of-force commitment, in reciprocity with Georgia's unilateral pledge, and to fully comply with the commitments made under the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement. The participants from Georgia stressed the necessity of establishing the international security arrangements in the occupied territories.

All agenda items were discussed within the second working group, including the freedom of movement, the right to receive education in one's mother tongue, the need to ensure respect for human rights inside the occupied territories, the return of the internally displaced persons and refugees, as well as the issues related to cultural heritage and the protection of the environment.

Extensive discussion took place concerning the restrictions to the provision of education in the Georgian language in the occupied territories, with particular emphasis on the situation in the Gali district. The Georgian participants and the co-moderators emphasized the necessity to ensure the right to receive education in one's native language.

The issue of the return of the internally displaced persons and refugees was also discussed in substance. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees presented the findings of the survey conducted by the organization among internally displaced persons in Georgia that reconfirms the willingness of internally displaced persons to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

The Georgian participants once again reaffirmed their readiness to continue to engage constructively and to take effective measures with a view to conducting humanitarian projects aimed at resolving the pressing needs of the local population.

The participants from Georgia thanked the head of the United States delegation to the Geneva international discussions, Eric Rubin, for his contributions to the talks and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

The thirty-third round of the Geneva international discussions will be held on 6 and 7 October 2015.